

# Accepting and Refusing

In English

# When someone offers or invites you to do something, how do you respond?

This video will teach you various ways to accept or refuse invitations and offers in English.

- ▶ Let's start with some scenarios.



# Situation 1

Someone offers you a glass of champagne. You don't drink.  
What do you say?

- ▶ A. I don't want to drink.
- ▶ B. No, not now.
- ▶ C. No, thank you.
- ▶ D. Drinking is bad for you.



# The best answer is

C. No, thank you

What's wrong with the others?



- ▶ A. I don't want to drink. (Sounds quite rude.)
- ▶ B. No, not now. (If not now, how about later?)
- ▶ D. Drinking is bad for you. (Why be so judgemental?)

# What if you *want* the drink? What do you say?

- ▶ A. Sure, thanks.
- ▶ B. Of course. I love it.
- ▶ C. Yes, give it to me.
- ▶ D. Okay. I'll drink it.



# The best answer is

A. Sure, thanks.

What's wrong with the others?



- ▶ B. Of course. I love it. (Too much. And what do you love?)
- ▶ C. Yes, give it to me. (Sounds impolite and demanding.)
- ▶ D. Okay. I'll drink it. (Are you doing *them* a favor?)

# Can you think of other responses to the question?

Q: Would you like some tea?

- ▶ If you *want* it, what can you say?
- ▶ If you *don't* want it, what can you say?





# This lesson is about Accepting and Refusing in English

We will explore different ways to do this through a few scenarios.

Note: If you need to refuse something, for whatever reason, try to be both clear and polite.

- ▶ No, I don't want it. X Clear, but not polite.
- ▶ Mmm. I'm so sorry. X Polite, but not clear.
- ▶ No, thank you. Clear and polite.



# Ready for another one?

## Situation 2:

Someone invites you to go dancing this weekend. You don't like dancing. What do you say?

- ▶ A. No. I hate dancing.
- ▶ B. I'd rather not. Thanks anyway.
- ▶ C. I'm really busy this weekend.
- ▶ D. Are you kidding me?



# Analysis

For these situations, we will give you the **best answer** and tell why the others are not as good.

- ▶ A. No. I hate dancing. (Direct, but rude.)
- ▶ **B. I'd rather not. Thanks anyway.**
- ▶ C. I'm really busy this weekend. (Avoid lying, if possible.)
- ▶ D. Are you kidding me? (Arrogant response.)

# What if you *want* to go dancing with them?

- ▶ A. Okay. That is fun.
- ▶ B. Thanks, let's to go.
- ▶ C. I am love dancing.
- ▶ D. Sure. Sounds good.



# What if you *want* to go with them?

- ▶ A. Okay. That is fun. (That would be fun.)
- ▶ B. Thanks, let's to go. (Grammar. Not now.)
- ▶ C. I am love dancing. (Give a clear "yes.") (I love dancing.)
- ▶ D. Sure. Sounds good.



# Situation 3

Someone offers you another piece of pie. You are on a diet.

What do you say?

- ▶ A. No, I'm on a diet.
- ▶ B. No, thanks. It looks good though.
- ▶ C. No, I really don't want to eat it.
- ▶ D. No, you really shouldn't offer it.



## Situation 3

Someone offers you another piece of pie. You are on a diet.  
What do you say?

- ▶ A. No, I'm on a diet. (They don't need to know the reason.)
- ▶ B. No, thanks. It looks good though. (Compliment them.)
- ▶ C. No, I really don't want to eat it. (Clear, but impolite.)
- ▶ D. No, you shouldn't offer it. (Blaming. Not appreciative.)

# What if you want the pie?

- ▶ A. Okay. Maybe just one more slice.
- ▶ B. Give to me a small one, okay? (Grammar. Imperative too strong)
- ▶ C. I only eat a little piece. (Focus on the pie, not yourself. Eat vs. have.)
- ▶ D. I really appreciate it, your pie. (Overdoing it. Wordy)

Note: In some cultures, it is polite to refuse the first time and wait for the second offer.

In America, if you refuse the first time, they probably won't offer it again.



## Situation 4

Someone invites you to go skiing on Friday, but you have another commitment.  
What do you say?

- ▶ A. I don't go skiing this weekend.
- ▶ B. I can't play skiing with you.
- ▶ C. I'd love to, but I can't on Friday.
- ▶ D. Sorry, I won't go with you.



# Situation 4

- ▶ Someone invites you to go skiing on Friday, but you have another commitment.
- ▶ What do you say?
- ▶ A. I don't go skiing this Friday. (Impolite. Sorry, I can't . . .)
- ▶ B. I can't play skiing with you. (Grammar. Soften the refusal.)
- ▶ C. I'd love to, but I can't on Friday.
- ▶ D. Sorry, I won't go with you. (Focus on the activity, not the person.)

# Situation 4

What if you *want* to go and have no other commitments?

What do you say?

- ▶ A. Yes, I love to skiing.
- ▶ B. Sounds like a good idea.
- ▶ C. Okay. Let's going skiing.
- ▶ D. Yes, a hundred times yes!

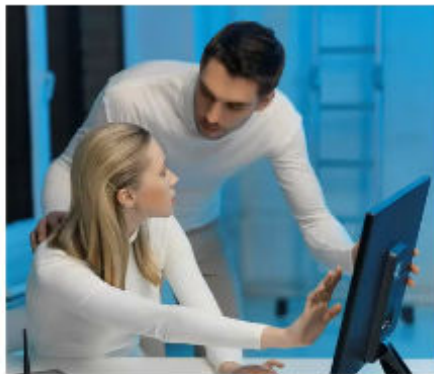


# Situation 4

What if you *want* to go and have no other commitments?

What do you say?

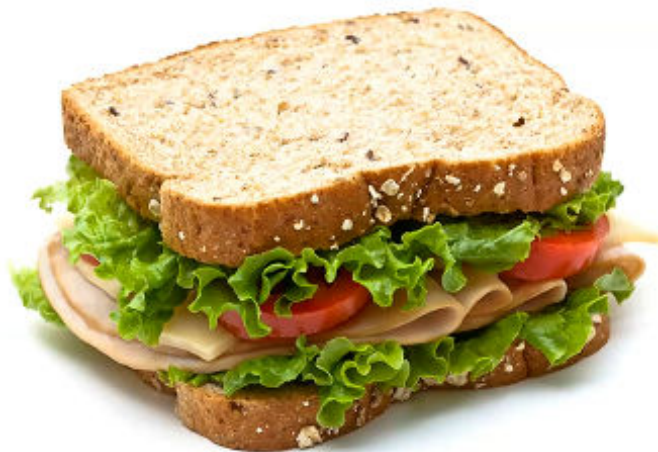
- ▶ A. Yes, I love to skiing. (Grammar)
- ▶ B. Sounds like a good idea.
- ▶ C. Okay. Let's going skiing. (Grammar. Now?)
- ▶ D. Yes, a hundred times yes! (Too enthusiastic.)



## Situation 5

Someone offers you a ham sandwich. You are a vegetarian.  
What do you say?

- ▶ A. Meat is bad for you.
- ▶ B. I don't want to eat meat.
- ▶ C. No, I am not eat meat.
- ▶ D. No, but thanks anyway.



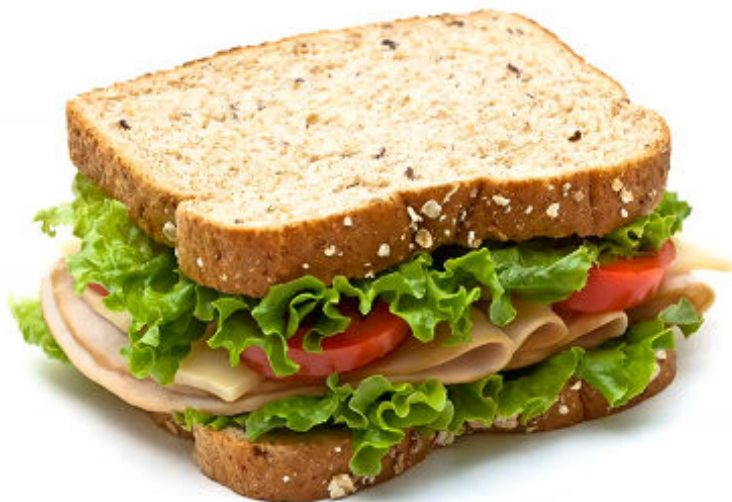
# Situation 5

Someone offers you a ham sandwich. You are a vegetarian.  
What do you say?

- ▶ A. Meat is bad for you. (Don't be judgemental.)
- ▶ B. I don't want to eat meat. (Focus on the offering, not yourself.)
- ▶ C. No, I am not eat meat. (Grammar and focus)
- ▶ D. No, but thanks anyway.

## 5. What if you *want* the sandwich?

- ▶ A. Looks delicious. Thanks.
- ▶ B. That is a good sandwich.
- ▶ C. Yes, I like it. Thank you.
- ▶ D. You are so wonderful.





## 5. What if you want the sandwich?

- ▶ A. Looks delicious. Thanks!
- ▶ B. That is a good sandwich. (You haven't tried it yet.)
- ▶ C. Yes, I like it. Thank you. (I'd like one. I like sandwiches.)
- ▶ D. You are so wonderful. (Focus on the sandwich, not the person.)



# What are some ways to invite someone or offer something to them?

Offering and *inviting* are very similar in English, but there *is* a difference:

## Offering:

- ▶ Would you like a \_\_\_\_ (count) \_\_\_\_\_ / some \_\_\_\_ (count / non-count) \_\_\_\_\_ ?
  - ▶ Would you like a cookie                      some cookies                      some soup ?



## Inviting:

- ▶ Would you like to \_\_ (verb) \_\_\_\_\_ ?
  - ▶ Would you like to go to the game this weekend?
  - ▶ Would you like to go bowling on Saturday?
  - ▶ Would you like to have brunch on Sunday?



# Let's review some phrases for accepting and refusing offers and invitations.

► Would you like some cake?

Would you like to go to a concert?

Offer: Accepting	Offer: Refusing	Invitation: Accepting	Invitation: Refusing
Okay. Thanks.	No, thank you.	Sure. Sounds good / great.	No, but thanks for inviting me.
Yes. I'd love some / a piece. (one)	None for me, Thanks.	Sure. I'd love to.	I'd rather not, but thanks.
Sure. It looks delicious.	No, thanks. It looks good though.	Yes, that would be wonderful.	I think I'll pass. Thanks though.
Just a small piece, please.	I'd better not. Thanks anyway.	Of course. Thanks for asking.	I really can't. Sorry.

# Note: Yes and No

Sometimes you want to accept the offer or invitation, but the timing or situation is not right. In those cases, you can decline temporarily, but let the other person know you could accept under different circumstances.

What do you say?

- ▶ I'm busy this weekend. How about another time?
- ▶ I'd love to, but I have an appointment that day. How about next week?
- ▶ The cake looks delicious. How about later, after the video?



# More situations:

## Role play with a partner.

### Situation 6

A: Invite your partner (B) to a party this weekend.

B: Accept the invitation.

### Situation 7

A: Invite your partner to join your church choir.

B: You hate to sing. Politely decline / refuse.



### Situation 8

A: Offer your partner some marijuana.

B: You really don't want to smoke it. What do you say?



Think of some other situations in which you might offer, invite, accept or refuse.

Try them out with your classmates or friends.

Go ahead, talk!

